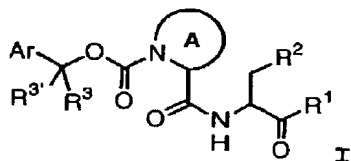
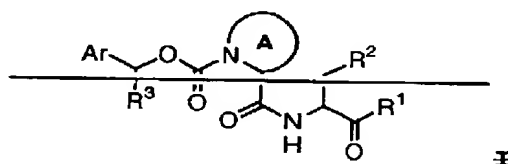


EXHIBIT A

Claim amendments presented in applicants' Amendment And Reply To Office Action, dated August 7, 2003, with omitted parentheticals "original" inserted for claims 5, 6, and 16 and "currently amended" inserted for 8, 12, 14, 15, and 17 (inserted text in bold, italics).

1. (previously amended) A compound of formula **I**:



wherein:

- Ring A is an optionally substituted ~~piperidine~~, tetrahydroquinoline or tetrahydroisoquinoline ring;
 R¹ is ~~hydrogen~~, -H, -CHN₂, -R, or -CH₂Y;
 R is an optionally substituted group selected from an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or an heterocyclalkyl group;
 Y is an electronegative leaving group;
 R² is CO₂H, CH₂CO₂H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;
 Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group; and
 R³ is ~~hydrogen~~ -H, and R³ is -H, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, -F, CN, or aryl;
 or R³ is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2 heteroatoms; or

R^{3'} and R³ are each -F.

2. (currently amended) The compound of claim 1 ~~having one or more of the following features:~~, wherein

~~(a) R¹ is CH₂F;~~

~~(b) R² is CO₂H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;~~

~~(c) R³ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl; and~~

~~(d) Ar is an optionally substituted aryl.~~

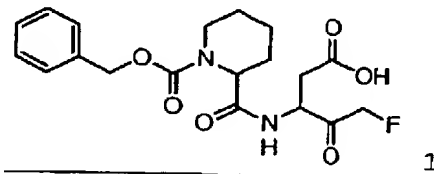
3. (currently amended) The compound of claim 2 having the following features: (a) R¹ is CH₂F; (b) R² is CO₂H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof; and (c) R³ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl; ~~and (d) Ar is an optionally substituted aryl.~~

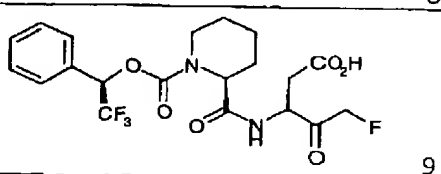
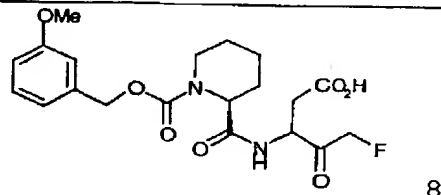
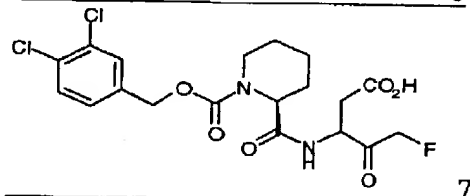
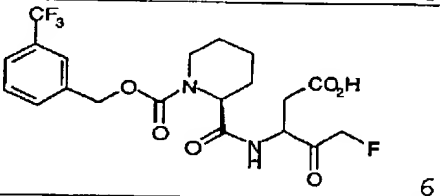
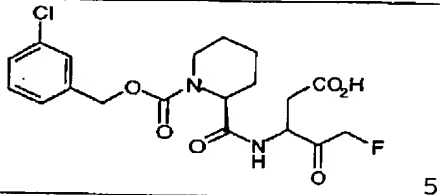
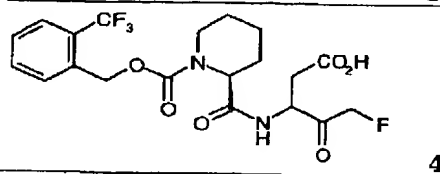
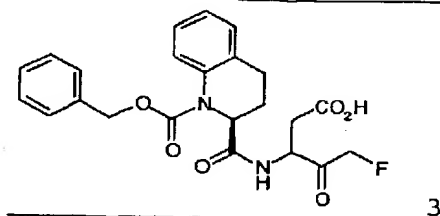
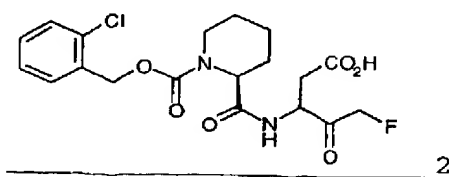
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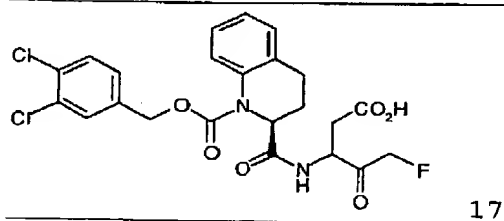
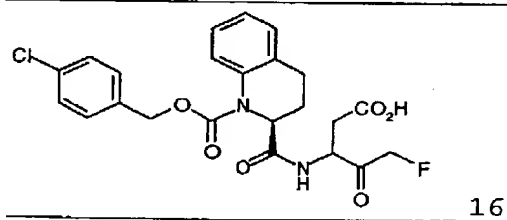
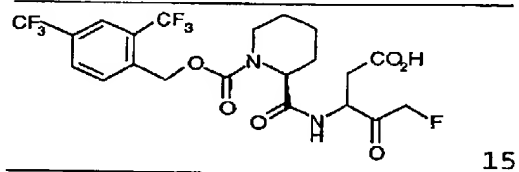
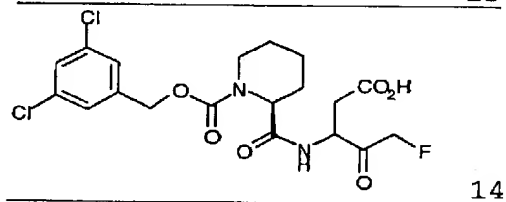
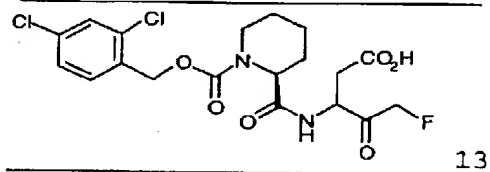
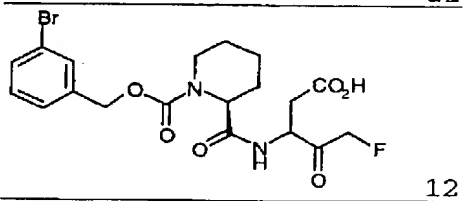
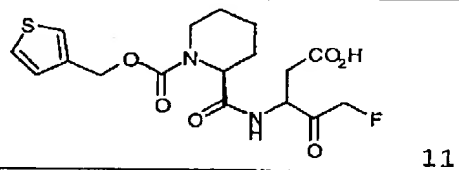
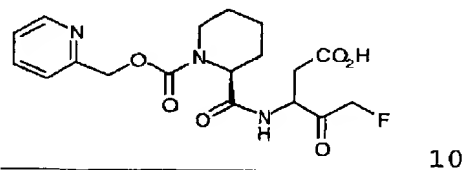
5. **(original)** The compound of claim 3 where Ring A is a tetrahydroquinoline ring.

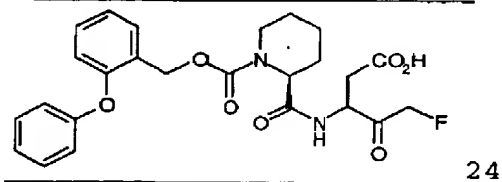
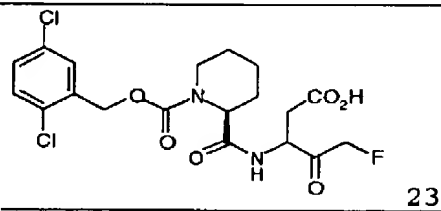
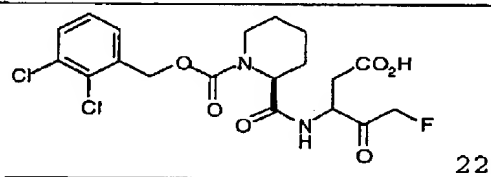
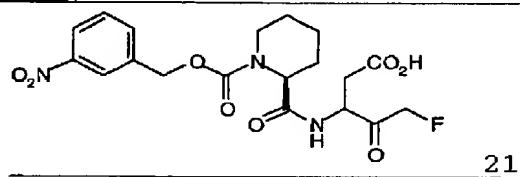
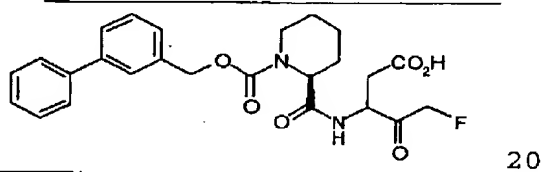
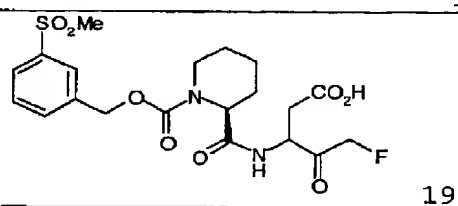
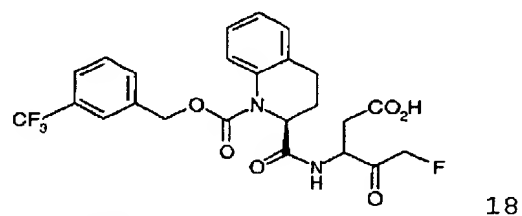
6. **(original)** The compound of claim 3 where Ring A is a tetrahydroisoquinoline ring.

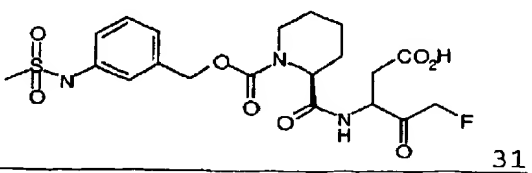
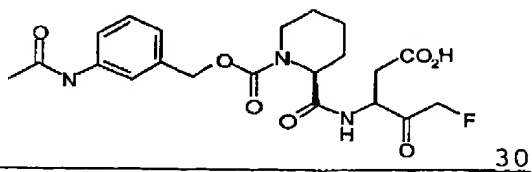
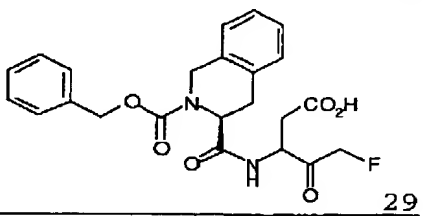
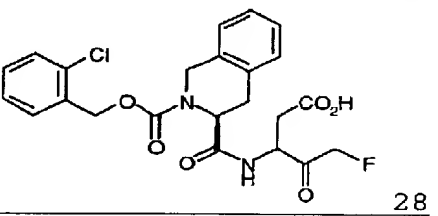
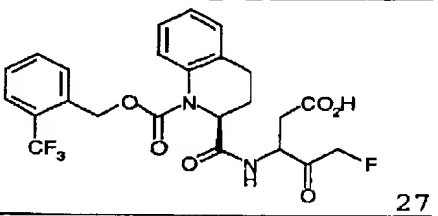
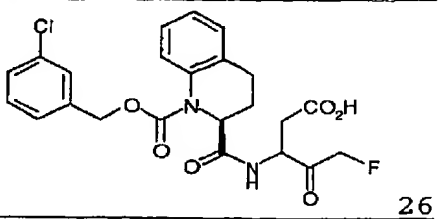
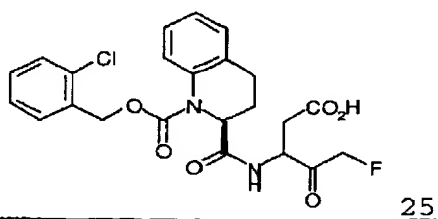
7. (currently amended) ~~The A compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the compounds listed in Table 1~~

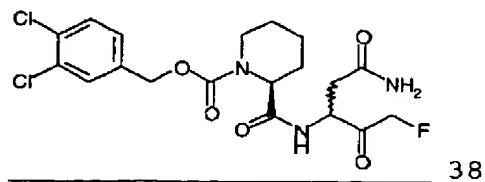
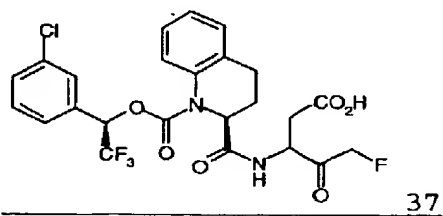
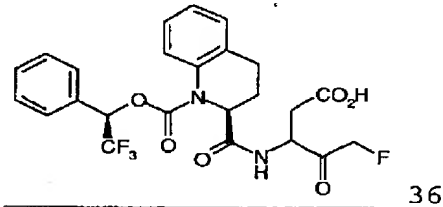
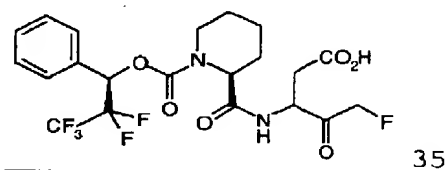
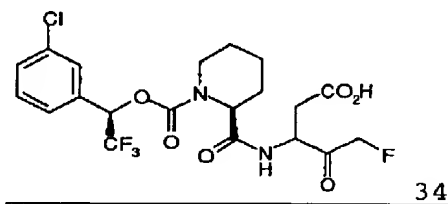
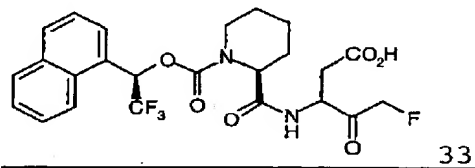
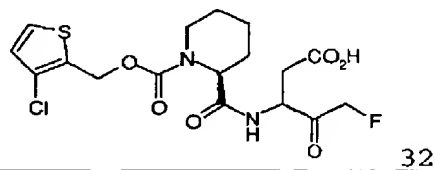


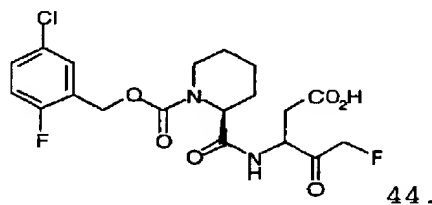
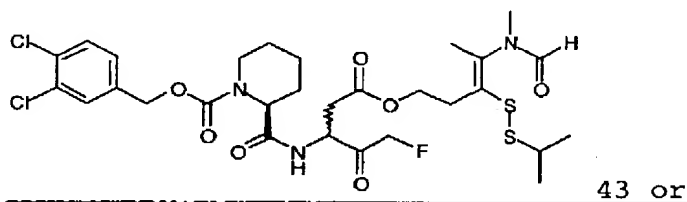
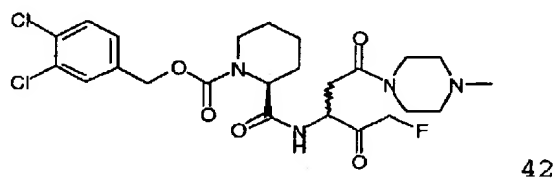
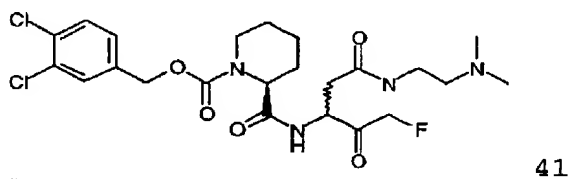
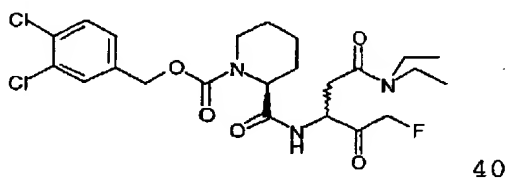
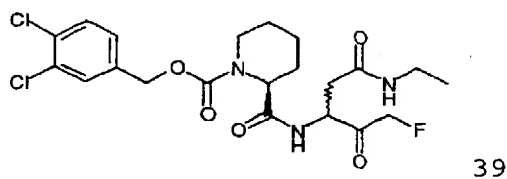




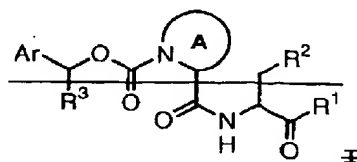








8. (**currently amended**) A method for treating a condition or disease state in mammals that is alleviated by treatment with a caspase inhibitor, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-3, 5-7 or 18-42 of formula I:



wherein:

~~Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine,~~

~~tetrahydroquinoline or tetrahydroisoquinoline ring;~~

~~R¹ is hydrogen, CHN₃, R, or CH₂Y;~~

~~R is an optionally substituted group selected from an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or an heterocyclylalkyl group;~~

~~Y is an electronegative leaving group;~~

~~R² is CO₂H, CH₂CO₂H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;~~

~~Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group; and~~

~~R³ is hydrogen, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, F₂, CN, aryl, or R³ is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2 heteroatoms.~~

9-11. (cancelled).

12. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 8 wherein the disease is selected from an IL-1 mediated disease, an apoptosis mediated disease, an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, a destructive bone disorder, a proliferative disorder, an infectious disease, a degenerative disease, a disease associated with cell death, an excess dietary alcohol intake disease, a viral mediated disease, uveitis, inflammatory peritonitis, osteoarthritis, pancreatitis, asthma, adult respiratory distress syndrome, glomerulonephritis, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, chronic thyroiditis, Grave's disease, autoimmune gastritis, diabetes, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, autoimmune neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, chronic active

hepatitis, myasthenia gravis, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, scarring, graft vs host disease, organ transplant rejection, osteoporosis, leukemias and related disorders, myelodysplastic syndrome, multiple myeloma-related bone disorder, acute myelogenous leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, metastatic melanoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, multiple myeloma, haemorrhagic shock, sepsis, septic shock, burns, Shigellosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Kennedy's disease, prion disease, cerebral ischemia, epilepsy, myocardial ischemia, acute and chronic heart disease, myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, coronary artery bypass graft, spinal muscular atrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, HIV-related encephalitis, aging, alopecia, neurological damage due to stroke, ulcerative colitis, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, hepatitis-B, hepatitis-C, hepatitis-G, yellow fever, dengue fever, ~~ex~~-Japanese encephalitis, ~~various forms of~~ liver disease, including alcoholic hepatitis, renal disease, polyaptic kidney disease, H. pylori-associated gastric and duodenal ulcer disease, HIV infection, tuberculosis, and meningitis.

13. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the compound is used to treat complications associated with coronary artery bypass grafts.

14. **(currently amended)** ~~The A method of claim 8 wherein the compound is used for the preservation of cells, said method comprising the step of bathing the cells in a solution of the a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof according to any one of claims 1-3, 5-7, or 18-42.~~

15. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 8-14, wherein ~~the compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof is used~~ the cells are in an organ for use in an organ transplant or for preserving in a blood products.

16. **(original)** The method of claim 8 wherein the compound is used as a component of immunotherapy for the treatment of cancer.

17. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of claims ~~1-7~~ 1-3, 5-7, or 18-42 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. **(new)** The compound of claim 1 where Ring A is a tetrahydroquinoline ring.

19. **(new)** The compound of claim 1 where Ring A is a tetrahydroisoquinoline ring.

20. **(new)** The compound of claim 1, wherein R^2 is CO_2H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof.

21. **(new)** The compound of claim 20, wherein R^1 is CH_2F .

22. **(new)** The compound of claim 1, wherein R^3 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl.

23. **(new)** The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is C_{1-6} haloalkyl.

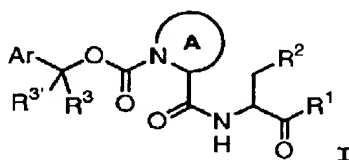
24. **(new)** The compound according to claim 23, wherein R^3 is CF_3 .

25. (new) The compound according to claim 23, wherein R³ is C₂F₅.

26. (new) The compound of claim 22, wherein R¹ is CH₂F.

27. (new) The compound of claim 22, wherein R² is CO₂H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof.

28. (new) A compound of formula I:



wherein:

Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine ring;

R^1 is $-H$, $-CHN_2$, $-R$, or $-CH_2Y$;

R is an optionally substituted group selected from an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or a heterocyclylalkyl group;

Y is an electronegative leaving group;

R^2 is CO_2H , CH_2CO_2H , or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;

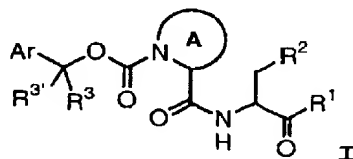
Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group; and

R^{3'} is -H, and R³ is -H, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, CN, or aryl;

or R³ is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2 heteroatoms;

or R^3 and $R^{3'}$ are each $-F$; provided that R^1 is not $-\text{CH}_2\text{-tetrazolyl}$.

29. (new) A compound of formula I:



wherein:

Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine ring;

R¹ is hydrogen, CHN₂, or -CH₂Y;

Y is F, Cl, Br, I, -OSO₂aryl, -OSO₂C₁₋₆ alkyl, -OSO₂CF₃, -OR',
-SR', -OC=O(R'), or -OPO(R⁴)(R⁵);

R² is CO₂H, CH₂CO₂H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;

Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group;

R^{3'} is -H, and R³ is -H, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, CN,
or aryl;

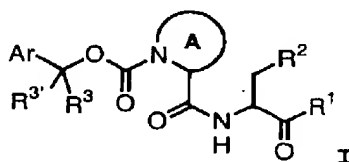
or R³ is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially
saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2
heteroatoms;

or R³ and R^{3'} are each -F;

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently -R' or -OR'; and

R' is an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a
carbocyclic group, an alkyl carbocyclic group, a heterocyclic
group, or an alkyl heterocyclic group, wherein each group is
optionally substituted.

30. (new) A compound of formula I:



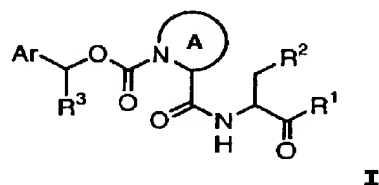
wherein:

Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine ring;

R¹ is hydrogen, CHN₂, R, or -CH₂Y;

R is an unsubstituted aliphatic group, an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or an optionally substituted heterocyclalkyl group;
 Y is F, Cl, Br, I, -OSO₂aryl, -OSO₂C₁₋₆ alkyl, -OSO₂CF₃, -OR', -SR', -OC=O(R'), or -OPO(R⁴)(R⁵);
 R² is CO₂H, CH₂CO₂H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;
 Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group;
 R^{3'} is -H, and R³ is -H, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl, CN, or aryl;
 or R³ is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2 heteroatoms;
 or R³ and R^{3'} are each -F;
 R' is an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a carbocyclic group, a carbocyclalkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or an heterocyclalkyl, wherein each group is optionally substituted; and
 R⁴ and R⁵ are independently -R' or -OR'.

31. (new) A compound of formula I:



wherein:

Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine ring;
 R¹ is -H, -CHN₂, -R, or -CH₂Y;
 R is an optionally substituted group selected from an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or an heterocyclalkyl group;
 Y is an electronegative leaving group;
 R² is CO₂H, CH₂CO₂H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof;

Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group; and
R³ is a C₁₋₆ haloalkyl.

32. (new) The compound according to claim 31, wherein R³ is CF₃.

33. (new) The compound according to claim 31, wherein R³ is C₂F₅.

34. (new) The compound according to claim 29, wherein R¹ is -H.

35. (new) The compound according to claim 29, wherein R¹ is -CH₂F.

36. (new) The compound of claim 29, wherein R¹ is -CH₂OR'.

37. (new) The compound of claim 29, wherein R² is CO₂H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof.

38. (new) The compound of claim 37, wherein R¹ is CH₂F.

39. (new) The compound of claim 29, wherein R³ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl.

40. (new) The compound of claim 39, wherein R¹ is CH₂F.

41. (new) The compound of claim 39, wherein R² is CO₂H or esters, amides or isosteres thereof.

42. (new) The compound of claim 41, wherein R¹ is CH₂F.